

News Release

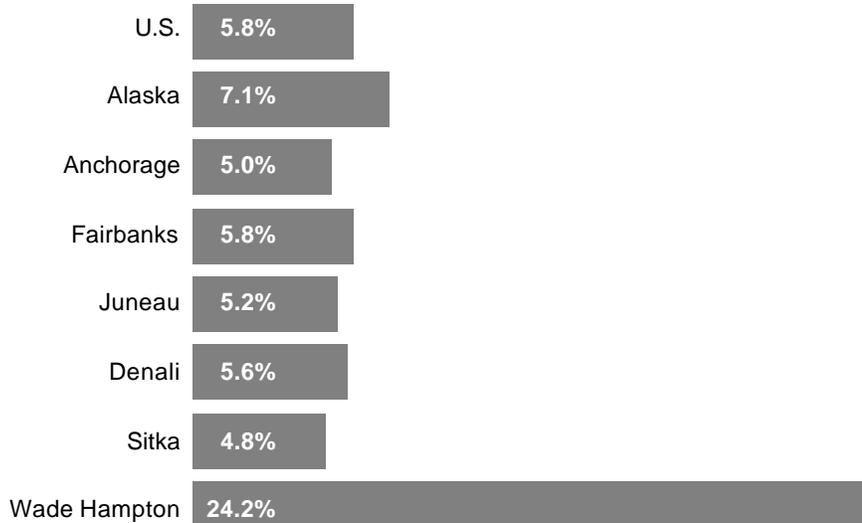
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June 20, 2003
No. 03-22

May Unemployment Declines

May Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section
All rates not seasonally adjusted

(Detailed table on reverse)

Alaska Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

	preliminary	revised	05/02	Changes from	
	05/03	04/03		04/03	05/02
Total Nonfarm Employment	300,800	289,700	298,200	11,100	2,600
Natural Resources & Mining	10,200	10,000	10,800	200	-600
Construction	16,600	13,800	15,900	2,800	700
Manufacturing	8,900	9,800	9,500	-900	-600
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	61,300	58,500	62,300	2,800	-1,000
Information	6,900	6,800	7,200	100	-300
Financial Activities	13,700	13,300	13,600	400	100
Professional & Business Services	23,300	22,300	23,100	1,000	200
Education & Health Services	32,100	31,700	30,400	400	1,700
Leisure & Hospitality	31,100	27,500	30,300	3,600	800
Other Services	12,500	12,400	12,300	100	200
Government	84,100	83,600	82,800	500	1,300

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.
Benchmark date: March 2002
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

May 2003:	Alaska 7.3%	U.S. 6.1%
April 2003:	Alaska 7.2%	U.S. 6.0%
May 2002:	Alaska 7.5%	U.S. 5.8%

Alaska's unemployment rate fell three-tenths of a percentage point in May to 7.1 percent, according to Dan Robinson, a labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate was unchanged at 5.8 percent.

As expected, Alaska's seasonal industries added a significant number of jobs to the state's labor market in May, marking the beginning of Alaska's peak employment season. The construction industry added an estimated 2,800 jobs in May. The accommodations industry and the eating and drinking industry combined to add another 3,500. Overall, the state added more than 11,000 jobs in May.

For the second month in a row, the only two regions that saw an increase in their unemployment rates were the Northern Region (up from 14.0 percent to 15.6 percent) and the Southwest Region (up from 13.3 percent to 15.2 percent).

Anchorage and Juneau both saw small decreases in their rates, while Fairbanks saw a bigger drop, falling from 6.7 percent in April to 5.8 percent in May. The Denali Borough saw a dramatic change as the summer visitor season kicked off, lowering its rate from 11.0 percent to 5.6 percent. Haines and Skagway saw similar declines.

Sitka had the state's lowest unemployment rate in May at 4.8 percent. Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 24.2 percent.

URL Address: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

Contact: Neal Fried, Anchorage (907) 269-4861

Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	05/03	04/03	05/02	05/03	04/03	05/02	05/03	04/03	05/02	05/03	04/03	05/02
Alaska Statewide	342,771	334,775	320,724	24,251	24,857	23,040	7.1	7.4	7.2	318,520	309,918	297,684
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	189,326	186,996	175,099	10,527	10,930	9,934	5.6	5.8	5.7	178,799	176,066	165,165
Municipality of Anchorage	153,085	151,303	143,218	7,711	7,894	7,294	5.0	5.2	5.1	145,374	143,409	135,924
Mat-Su Borough	36,241	35,693	31,881	2,816	3,036	2,640	7.8	8.5	8.3	33,425	32,657	29,241
Gulf Coast Region	34,840	33,687	33,226	3,582	3,578	3,322	10.3	10.6	10.0	31,258	30,109	29,904
Kenai Peninsula Borough	22,642	22,180	21,893	2,245	2,533	2,380	9.9	11.4	10.9	20,397	19,647	19,513
Kodiak Island Borough	7,099	6,435	6,413	895	459	477	12.6	7.1	7.4	6,204	5,976	5,936
Valdez-Cordova CA	5,099	5,071	4,920	442	585	465	8.7	11.5	9.5	4,657	4,486	4,455
Interior Region	54,339	51,659	50,658	3,611	3,932	3,517	6.6	7.6	6.9	50,728	47,727	47,141
Denali Borough	1,252	1,250	1,158	70	138	60	5.6	11.0	5.2	1,182	1,112	1,098
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	47,762	45,362	44,503	2,792	3,053	2,713	5.8	6.7	6.1	44,970	42,309	41,790
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,787	2,664	2,639	293	318	321	10.5	11.9	12.2	2,494	2,346	2,318
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,540	2,383	2,357	457	423	422	18.0	17.8	17.9	2,083	1,960	1,935
Northern Region	9,221	9,361	8,967	1,443	1,311	1,311	15.6	14.0	14.6	7,778	8,050	7,656
Nome Census Area	3,389	3,458	3,348	497	464	501	14.7	13.4	15.0	2,892	2,994	2,847
North Slope Borough	3,371	3,411	3,252	427	364	354	12.7	10.7	10.9	2,944	3,047	2,898
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,461	2,492	2,367	520	483	456	21.1	19.4	19.3	1,941	2,009	1,911
Southeast Region	39,432	37,183	38,082	2,712	3,000	2,837	6.9	8.1	7.4	36,720	34,183	35,245
Haines Borough	1,257	1,238	1,193	122	182	104	9.7	14.7	8.7	1,135	1,056	1,089
Juneau Borough	17,431	16,288	16,717	904	903	854	5.2	5.5	5.1	16,527	15,385	15,863
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,481	7,106	7,290	568	670	654	7.6	9.4	9.0	6,913	6,436	6,636
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,767	2,598	2,758	324	324	414	11.7	12.5	15.0	2,443	2,274	2,344
Sitka Borough	4,585	4,295	4,460	218	230	269	4.8	5.4	6.0	4,367	4,065	4,191
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,062	2,005	2,034	157	231	205	7.6	11.5	10.1	1,905	1,774	1,829
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,503	3,316	3,304	357	387	284	10.2	11.7	8.6	3,146	2,929	3,020
Yakutat Borough	348	338	326	63	73	53	18.1	21.6	16.3	285	265	273
Southwest Region	15,612	15,889	14,691	2,375	2,106	2,118	15.2	13.3	14.4	13,237	13,783	12,573
Aleutians East Borough	1,669	1,713	1,566	88	67	65	5.3	3.9	4.2	1,581	1,646	1,501
Aleutians West Census Area	2,659	2,634	2,466	352	232	275	13.2	8.8	11.2	2,307	2,402	2,191
Bethel Census Area	6,169	6,273	5,766	1,037	930	892	16.8	14.8	15.5	5,132	5,343	4,874
Bristol Bay Borough	502	529	479	48	57	48	9.6	10.8	10.0	454	472	431
Dillingham Census Area	1,830	1,881	1,700	227	212	178	12.4	11.3	10.5	1,603	1,669	1,522
Lake & Peninsula Borough	565	601	526	87	104	72	15.4	17.3	13.7	478	497	454
Wade Hampton CA	2,221	2,257	2,188	537	503	588	24.2	22.3	26.9	1,684	1,754	1,600

Benchmark: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. • Comparisons between different time periods are not as

meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. • The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.